

An advance that’s something to smile about

Digital-guided implants may mean patients spend less time in the dentist’s chair and recover quickly.

When you see yourself smiling in a mirror or photographs, do you notice only your missing tooth or teeth? Or are you so self-conscious you purse your lips?

Even if you’ve always taken care of your teeth, bad luck can strike: a car accident or carelessly swung golf club or cricket bat can turn a perfect bite into a perfect nightmare.

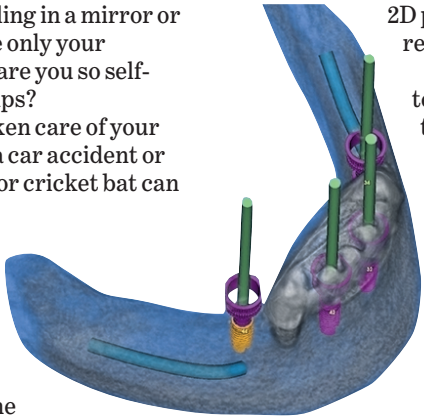
And be careful on slippery footpaths, says Toorak dental surgeon Dr Kevin Kok. “We get those every winter.”

Whatever the cause of the gap in your smile, dentures are no longer the only option. Dental implants have become routine: a titanium post is surgically placed into the jawbone, then fitted with a cap or crown.

Even that technology has moved on: digital-guided implants are today’s “game-changer”, Dr Kok says. Sophisticated digital scanning, planning and 3D modelling lay the groundwork: by the time you sit in the dentist’s chair for implant surgery, the process is fast, accurate and likely to cause minimal discomfort.

For an implant to be successful, the patient’s jaw must have enough strong bone. (If that’s not the case, bone grafting may be carried out over several months.)

In state-of-the art surgeries such as Dr Kok’s Oryx Dental, after the mouth has been digitally scanned, software is used to create



2D planning views and 3D representations.

The same precision technology is used to print an “open-frame digital guide” – a 3D model that the dentist uses to determine the best site for the implant, optimal angle, exact dimensions of the replacement tooth and so on.

The result of all this preparatory work is “peace of mind” for patient and dentist, says Dr Kok. Oryx Dental does a lot of reconstructive and cosmetic dentistry, and digital-guided implants.

The technology has “changed the way we approach implants”, he says.

“Most of the preparatory work is done outside the mouth. With digital planning, we are able to create guides that reduce the treatment time and trauma for a patient. We can position the implant for best function and aesthetics.

“Digital planning simplifies the whole procedure and allows us to get more predictable and better results – less trauma for a patient, reduced surgical time and greatly improved accuracy.”

By the time you open your mouth to have the surgery, everything has been digitally



Plan ahead to achieve the perfect smile: Sophisticated scanning and 3D models allow dental surgeons to get the best results from dental implants.

planned down to a fraction of a millimetre.

“A single implant placement procedure might take as little as 15 minutes,” Dr Kok says.

Once the bone has grown around the implant, you’ll spend a short, painless time back in the chair for the addition of the tooth. Then you’ll really have a smile on your dial.

“That’s the bit we love,” Dr Kok says. The ability to smile unselfconsciously “really improves the quality of people’s lives”.

Many patients who had implant surgery years ago are “stoked” at how digital guides speed up the procedure, he says: “It’s a lot easier than they expected.

“The treatment time is greatly reduced because, with these guides, we know exactly where we’re going.

“Generally there’s less trauma for a patient and that translates to faster recovery times.”

That’s reason to smile.

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Oryx Dental is a practice that takes the utmost pride in the quality of care for our patients. We love doing beautiful work, and are committed to getting you smiling your very best!

We are a very welcoming practice with a personable and ethical patient-focused approach, covering all aspects of general dental as well as the more major disciplines. Oryx Dental is truly passionate about providing excellence in dental care.

For the past 29 years we are proud to have looked after individuals and families of all age groups including children and those with unique requirements. Our long standing and established patient base is a testament to our services.

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